

**Ability Alliance of West Alabama
Strategic Plan for Developmental Disabilities Services
January 2018 - January 2020**

Board Name: Ability Alliance of West Alabama

Counties Served: Bibb, Pickens and Tuscaloosa

Description of Services/Supports Provided:

- Single point of entry into the Alabama Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities.
- Assessment and evaluation for eligibility determination and placement on the statewide waiting list for services from the Department of Mental Health Division of Developmental Disabilities for Medicaid Home and Community based services.
- Case Management and follow-along services once approved and enrolled for services
- Medicaid Waiver services for individuals receiving waiver services through the Department of Mental Health Division of Developmental Disabilities

Population(s) Served:

- Children and adults with disabilities who are eligible for services from the Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Ability Alliance of West Alabama provides services for 489 individuals

County	Number of persons receiving case management services	Number of persons on statewide waiting list who receive some waiver services	Number of persons on statewide waiting list who receive no waiver services
Bibb County	19	1	11 (6 of 11 no CM services)
Pickens County	25	1	6 (3 of 6 no CM services)
Tuscaloosa County	445	13	92 (40 of 92 no CM services)
Totals	489	15	109

Mission Statement:

- It is the mission of Ability Alliance of West Alabama (AAWA) to affect positively the quality of life for persons with intellectual disabilities by helping to ensure that appropriate and quality services and supports are available and accessible

throughout their lifespan. AAWA expects that all services will ensure full participation in all life experiences through a person-driven, family support, proactive, and creative system which allows services and support options to be tailored to the individual and family's needs.

Vision Statement:

- Promoting community inclusion for persons with developmental disabilities in Bibb, Pickens and Tuscaloosa Counties of West Alabama.

Description of Planning Cycle:

The plan is developed for a two year period with updates annually. AAWA mails and provides links to survey monkey to individuals, families and providers to gather information regarding needs and satisfaction with services provided on an annual basis. In addition, a series of meetings are held with individuals, families and providers annually to discuss plan and obtain input on the agency's mission.

Planning Cycle Timeframe:

The planning period for the plan is January 2018 to January 2020.

Key Stakeholders & Roles:

Key stakeholders involved in planning process included individuals and their families, providers of services, case managers and other community members

Method of Needs Assessment:

General methods used to assess needs included:

- Survey of needs
- Annual meetings with individuals, families, and providers
- Review of the waiting list and needs for services
- Review of financial resources currently expended for services

During this planning cycle the following activities were conducted:

- A meeting with persons, families served and providers was held on March 22, 2018 and April 2, 2018.
- The agency mailed out surveys to persons and families served in November, 2017.
 - 43 responses have been received.
- The agency also provided a link to the survey online to providers and community partners.
 - 9 responses have been received.
- Gathered information is compiled into a report reflecting current issues for individuals we serve.
 - As of 4/23/18, Case Management has a 92.31% overall satisfaction score.

Greatest Area(s) of Unmet Needs:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Friends/Relationships
- Hourly Supports
- Better Communication regarding issues
- Smaller caseloads for Case Managers
- Agency Mission statement needs to be more understandable

Needed Expansions:

- Additional funding for waiver services to reduce the number of individuals on the waiting list.
- Availability or flexible funding for goods and services
- Increase availability of providers of in-home/out of home respite services
- Increased funding for Case Management

Current Funding Resources:

- Medicaid, state match for case management and waiver services:
- 95%+ of individuals with intellectual disabilities served by the Department of Mental Health Division of Developmental Disabilities are served by Medicaid Waivers.
- \$28,000,000 is spent on Services in Tuscaloosa, Bibb and Pickens County
- Case management funding 1.25 million, reduced from FY 2017 1.35 Million due to reduction in individuals served

Future Funding Resources:

- None anticipated
- Need for more local control over state funds that are received for services and supports from DMH.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal: Communicate the agency mission to the community

Objective: Revise agency mission statement by December 31, 2018

Goal: Advocate and assist with decreasing the number of individual on the waiting list for waiver services and increase the number of wavier slots.

Objective: Advocate for 50 waiver slots for the plan period

Goal: Increase communication with families, individuals, and providers in regard to generic community supports and services available in the community

- Objective:
 - Use Facebook at least monthly to provide information about meetings and links to other agencies and community services and information.
 - Collaborate and or arrange for at least two presentations on generic services and supports available in the community

Plan Monitoring & Evaluation:

Goals and strategies will be monitored by the Basic Assurance Staff of Ability Alliance

Reports on progress will be included in the agencies basis assurance plan.

Ashley Bryant-Walker

4/26/18

Ashley Walker Bryant AAWA Basic Assurance

Date

Vicki Hicks Turnage

4-26-18

Vicki Hicks Turnage, AAWA Executive Director

Date

Sharon Wilson

4-26-18

Approval President AAWA Board of Directors

Date